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houses or buildings but young standing crops on the river sides in four villages of Thekkil, Perambala; Karnad and Chemnad were damaged roughly on an extent of 20 acres, 30 acres, 50 acres and 64 acres, respectively. Monetary relief was granted in the case of deserving and poor people to reconstruct their huts. The Revenue authorities have also been instructed to grant takkavi loans liberally for reclamation of paddy fields silted with mud and sand, where necessary. The Director of Agriculture has been asked to make special allotment of 100 bags of second-crop variety seeds to the South Kanara district.''

Death of Koya Moopan due to starvation.

* 178 *Q.*—Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that one Koya Moopan, his three-year old child and two others of Paniyan caste of Vailathur desam, Patiyur amsam, Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar, died of starvation owing to non-availability of foodstuffs near about 25th August 1953;

(*b*) whether the matter was reported to the Government through the Collector of Malabar; and

(*c*) whether the Government took any action on the basis of the report?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) No. The deaths were due to natural causes and not due to starvation.

" (*b*) A report has been obtained from the Collector by the Government.

" (*c*) There was some distress in this village in the months of August-September not on account of non-availability of foodstuffs but on account of poverty among the labouring classes due to want of work. As a measure of immediate relief, the local people with the assistance of the village officers organized a gruel centre. As this was found to be adequate to meet the situation, no gruel centres or other relief measures from State funds were found necessary in this area. The situation has now improved considerably with the commencement of ' kanni ' harvest.''

Periodical meetings of Prohibition Committees.

* 179 *Q.*—Sri M. P. SUBRAMANIAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) the object of holding District and Taluk Prohibition Committee meetings every month; and

(*b*) in what way these meetings have helped to enforce the Prohibition Act strictly?

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THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—" (*a*) The councils and the committees are purely advisory bodies and they meet once in a month or at least once in a quarter to review the work done in the enforcement of the Act in the previous month or quarter and discuss and put forward suggestions for better working during the current month or quarter, as the case may be.

" (*b*) The periodical meetings provide adequate opportunities for the members to discuss freely and frankly the defects in the working of the Act in any particular area or areas both on the enforcement and the ameliorative sides, and to put forward any remedial measures for consideration and implementation. The suggestions made at the meetings are always taken into consideration by the local officers and put into action. Section 26 of the Prohibition Act requires every Member of a Prohibition Committee to observe the working of the Act in his taluk and make a report to the Collector or other Prohibition Officer as and when necessity arises. Every member is also entitled to give information regarding the commission or suspected commission of offences at any Police or Prohibition station. The periodical meetings help to review how far the members have fulfilled their obligations in assisting the staff to enforce the Act strictly in the areas which they represent. The prohibition councils and committees are necessary, if a proper link and understanding are to be maintained between the official machinery and the non-officials."

MR SPEAKER :—" Questions over."

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]**

II.—PRIVILEGE MOTIONS.

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Members Sri K. T. Kosalram and Sri R. V. Swaminathan have each given notice of a privilege motion. Sri R. V. Swaminathan's privilege motion reads as follows :—

' I wish to bring to your notice the caption given in *Dinamani* on **17th** December 1953 about the speech of Mr. K. T. Kosalram, M.L.A., in the Assembly characterising it as " மாஜுவஸ்தை பிரசங்கம்" and,,வெறியாட்டம்" which I consider as a breach of privilege.'

" The hon. Member Sri K. T. Kosalram has also given notice of a similar motion. This is a very important matter and I want to give full consideration to it. I shall take up this matter on Monday."

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM :—" On Monday I will not be here. So I request that it may be taken up on Tuesday."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have no objection."